

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-07

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TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 067264

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, KS

SUBJECT: US/KOREAN BILATERAL TEXTILE AGREEMENT

FOR JURICH

1. UNDERSTAND KOREAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO HAS ASKED TO TALK WITH YOU RE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING. KOREANS HERE HAVE ALSO ASKED TO MEET WITH YOU OR TO KNOW YOUR WHEREABOUTS OVER NEXT SEVERAL DAYS.

2. WE HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVISED THAT KIM DONG WHIE MAY GO TO GENEVA TEXTILE COMMITTEE MEETING APRIL 22. REPORTEDLY, ONE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO QUOTE DISCUSS OR RENEGOTIATE UNQUOTE THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AND, PRESUMABLY, THE 224 SUIT QUESTION.

3. WE DO NOT RPT NOT KNOW IF ROKG APPROACH TO YOU IN  
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TOKYO SIGNIFIES A WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON THE 224

SUIT ISSUE, TO OFFER A COUNTERPROPOSAL, OR TO MAKE SOME OTHER SUGGESTION. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ONE SOURCE THAT THE ROKG MAY BE WILLING TO ACCEPT OUR NUMBERS FOR 224 SUITS FOR FIRST AGREEMENT YEAR WITH PROVISIO (CONTAINED IN A LETTER TO BE EXCHANGED AT TIME NOTES WOULD BE EXCHANGED) THAT 224 SUIT QUESTION WOULD BE QUOTE REVIEWED UNQUOTE PRIOR TO SECOND AGREEMENT YEAR. IN PRINCIPLE, WE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH SUCH A SCHEME IF THE LETTER WERE

CAREFULLY WORDED TO AVOID GIVING THE ROKG THE IMPRESSION THAT BY A QUOTE REVIEW OF THE 224 SUIT QUESTION UNQUOTE THE US IS UNDERTAKING A COMMITMENT TO INCREASE THE LEVELS IN THAT OR ANY OTHER CATEGORY. IT IS OBVIOUSLY TOO

EARLY TO SAY THAT WE WOULD BE IN ANY POSITION TO INCREASE THAT LEVEL COME THIS OCTOBER. YOU MAY WISH TO DISCREETLY EXPLORE THIS SCHEME IF THE ROKG EMBASSY OFFICIALS RAISE IT WITH YOU.

4. AS YOU CAN IMAGINE, REACTION OF OTHER US AGENCIES TO THE NOTION THAT KIM DONG WHIE MAY GO TO GENEVA TO, INTER ALIA, DISCUSS OR RENEGOTIATE THE MEMORANDUM HAS BEEN DECIDELY COOL. WE STILL BELIEVE THE BEST SOLUTION FOR

BOTH SIDES WOULD BE TO EXCHANGE NOTES NOW PER THE US DRAFT WITH, IF NECESSARY, A LETTER ON THE 224 SUIT QUESTION. CERTAINLY, ANY ATTEMPT BY THE KOREANS TO RENEGOTIATE THE MEMORANDUM WOULD MEET STIFF RESISTENCE.

5. WE HAVE ASSUMED THAT THE ROKG INTEREST IN 224 SUITS WAS DUE TO THE BOOM IN LEISURE SUITS. FOR WHAT IT IS WORTH, THERE ARE PRELIMINARY REPORTS FROM THE DAILY NEW RECORD THIS WEEK THAT LEISURE SUIT SALES MAY FLATTEN OUT THIS FALL. IF THIS IS SO, AND GIVEN THE PAST TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE OF KOREA NOT FILLING THE 224 SUIT LEVELS, THE ROKG MIGHT BE IN A POSITION TO ACCEPT THE 224 SUIT LIMIT SPECIFIED IN THE MEMORANDUM. KISSINGER

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